

**NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL
MARCH 1, 2023
MEETING MINUTES**

Town Council President John Perrin opened the meeting at 5:00p.m. with the pledge to the American flag. Council members present were John Perrin, John Schilawski, Dennis Combs, John Purdie, and Chad Waltz (arrived at 5:20pm). Also present were Attorney Lee Robbins and Clerk-Treasurer Angela DeVoss. Councilman John Schilawski offered the opening prayer.

MINUTES

Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the minutes of the February 1st meeting and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Councilman Combs moves to approve the minutes of the February 15th special meeting and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents copies of the March 1, 2023 Fund Report and Docket for ratification and/or approval. Councilman Purdie moves to approve and ratify both reports and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

OLD BUSINESS

WWTP Lab / Building Additions

Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock said they're going a different direction on this project. They're going to postpone the lab edition until they do the bigger project at the shop in the next few years.

ARPA Wishlists

Council President Perrin introduces discussion about the American Rescue Plan money that the Town has received and will receive. Department heads are here to discuss their wish lists.

Fire Chief Dave Curin explains that one of his biggest needs is a gear dryer. Currently they do not have backup gear for our firefighters and when they are washed it takes several days to let the gear air dry. The gear dryer would cut drying time down to hours instead of days. Chief Curin describes other needs on his wish list as well.

Council discusses whether to allow each department to have a maximum spending limit in which they can use to get the items on their wish lists or whether Council should authorize each item individually. Attorney Robbins points out the prices could increase and suggests that Council could give department heads a spending allowance but note that they can only purchase items that are on their wish lists. Councilman Schilawski notes that we should still follow the competitive bid or small purchase policy.

Police Chief Joe Rynerson introduces his two newest officers: Cody Robertson came from Perry Township. He has experience and ILEA training. Clayton Harrington came from the Hendricks County Sheriff Department, is an ex-marine, and is also in the National Guard. Cameron Brunner is an on-call. He was a reserve officer for 4 years and is now full time. He will need to go to ILEA and will attend the fall class.

Police Chief Joe Rynerson discusses his ARP wish list. He states that the officers need new radar guns. The ones they're currently using are 20 years old. Among other things on the list presented to Council, they're needing trunk racks for rifles and new glocks, which would match what other law enforcement officers are using in the county already making it easier to work together in various situations. He would like to have a spare in case one is out for repair.

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin discusses items on his ARP wish list. He notes that he does not have a lot on his list. However, using ARP funds for the Tracy Road project would be a priority. He also discusses using some ARP funds for parking lot repairs and/or sidewalk repairs in areas of the Town in which the sidewalks are in very bad shape.

NEW BUSINESS

ACCESS Johnson County Fund Request

Becky Allen gives a presentation of ACCESS Johnson County and how the service has benefited the residents in the Town of New Whiteland. She states that she has been with ACCESS since 1992, starting as a driver. In 1999 the service was opened to the public. As of last year they are no longer considered rural. They are now urbanized and considered a vendor and cannot raise local money on their own. ACCESS is asking Council if they will consider financially supporting the program. They're asking for \$2,189. \$1000 will help with the flexible fixed route and \$1189 will help with the dial-a-ride program. Ms. Allen is asking all of the local cities and town to make ACCESS a budget line item so that we will be part of the local match system as every dollar that comes in must match. Council President Perrin suggests that we get this in before budget time so that we can offer the \$2,189 next year. Councilman Combs moves to approve the use of ARP funds to pay the \$2,189 for this year and to make this a line item in our budget starting next year and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

2022 JCPL Year in Review

JCPL Director Lisa Lintner shares the year in review packet with council along with a program guide. She states the new Clark Pleasant branch opened a year ago and is doing great. Door counts have increased 30%. The study rooms have been used a lot along with the meeting rooms. Grandparents have been sharing a lot of positive stories about bringing their grandkids to the new library. Lisa also shared about various upcoming programs.

Tracy Road Improvements

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin gives an update that we had a meeting with the executive director of the IMPO today and we cut them a check (per last meeting). They offered a wealth of information to consider.

Whiteland Community High School Construction Project

Councilman Schilawski let everyone know the Whiteland Community High School will be renovated and there will be some demolition and construction taking place at the north annex. That will involve extra equipment moving around the area. He wanted to officially notify the Town. Utility Superintendent Gillock states he has been contacted by the school and sent GIS information for utilities in the area. Council asked about the timeline and Councilman Schilawski states that the project is currently in the very early phases and he will keep us updated.

VITA

Council President Perrin shares that the new facility is making great project. The BZA met last night about the south property. Attorney Robbins shares that they were granted a special exception for independent living. They will come to the Plan Commission in March to ask for the southside to be divided into 3 lots for professional office use. There won't be direct access off of US31. It is proposed to be a minor plat with no new streets.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Ordinance 2023-03

An Ordinance Reestablishing Cumulative Capital Development Fund Rate

Attorney Robbins opens the public hearing at 6:18pm. Having no members of the public here to comment, the public hearing is closed at 6:19pm. The ordinance was introduced with the unanimous consent of all members. Councilman Purdie moves to adopt the ordinance and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **By a vote of 5 to 0, the ordinance is adopted.** Attorney Robbins notes we will need to submit a copy to the DLGF.

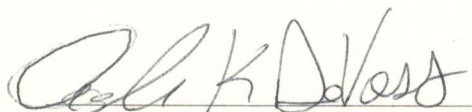
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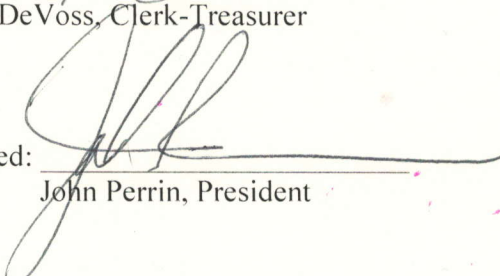
Raymond Morgan - 804 Willark Drive

Mr. Morgan explains that we had a local student, Joey Buttler, who recently won the state championship in wrestling. He mentioned that when Matt Fields won in 2007 and Jason Fryar in 2000 that there was a sign displayed in Town. He asks if we could get a sign for Joey Buttler. Council President Perrin says he'd like to get prices and see what we can do. He asks Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin to do some research on this. Councilman Schilawski refers to other signs Supt McCauslin can consider. Some are hung for the year at the school and then donated to the team.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:23pm by Council President John Perrin.

Respectfully submitted,


Angela DeVoss, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: 
John Perrin, President